INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in light of the included amendments and arguments.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application, and all claims stand rejected. No claims have been added or cancelled. Claims 1, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 24, and 28 are amended herein.

Applicant submits all amendments find support in the specification, drawings or claims as originally filed, and that in light of the arguments herein presented, the amendments place the application in condition for allowance.

A complete listing of all claims is presented herein for examiner's convenience, and this listing supersedes and replaces all previously submitted claims listings.

Claims Listing

1.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
providing access to television programming to enable a customer of a broker to create a
         custom channel including at least one television program selected from the
         television programming;
receiving at the broker input from the customer to create the custom channel; and
transmitting from the broker to the customer the custom channel including the at least one
         television program, the custom channel created by the customer from the broker
         to the customer.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising simultaneously transmitting to the customer the custom channel and at least one other custom channel,

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the at least one other custom channel including at least one television program selected from the television programming.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
pre-recording a television program; and
    transmitting to the customer a custom channel including the pre-recorded television
    program.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising providing at least one access code to the customer, the access code enabling the customer to access the television programming.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising assigning an access level to the at least one access code, the access level identifying at least one category of television programming the customer is prohibited from accessing.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
providing a program guide ~~including a listing~~ of television programming received by a
    broker from at least one provider;
providing access to the program guide to enable a customer of the broker to select at least
    one television program from the television programming;
adding the at least one selected television program to a custom channel <u>created by the</u>
    <u>customer</u>; and
    transmitting the custom channel <u>including the at least one selected television program</u>
    from the broker to the customer.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising pre-recording the at least one selected television program.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising prohibiting access by the customer to at least one category of television programming.

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9.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

providing a program guide ~~including a listing~~ of television programming available from a

        provider;

providing access to the program guide to enable a customer of a broker to select at least

        one television program from the television programming;

generating custom channel data <u>for a custom channel created by the customer, the custom</u>

        <u>channel data</u> identifying the at least one selected television program; and

sending the custom channel data from the broker to the provider.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising sending the custom

channel data to one of a cable television provider and a direct-to-home satellite provider.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising prohibiting access

by the customer to at least one category of television programming.

12.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving from a broker custom channel data associated with a customer, the custom

        channel data identifying selected television programming for at least one custom

        channel <u>created by the customer</u>; and

transmitting <u>to the customer</u> the at least one custom channel <u>including at least one</u>

        <u>television program selected from the television programming</u> ~~to the customer~~.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising encrypting a signal

comprising the at least one custom channel.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising pre-recording a

television program and including the pre-recorded television program in the at least one

custom channel.

15.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

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selecting at least one television program from a ~~listing~~ program guide of available

television programming;

selecting a time for viewing the at least one selected television program; and

adding the at least one selected television program and the selected time to a custom

channel, <u>the customer channel created by a customer</u>.

16.　　(Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

selecting from the listing of available television programming a second television

program;

selecting a second time for viewing the second television program, the second time

delayed relative to a scheduled broadcast time for the second television program;

and

adding the second television program and the second time to the custom channel.

17.　　(Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

selecting from the listing of available television programming a second television

program;

selecting a second time for viewing the second television program at least partially

coinciding with the selected time for viewing the at least one selected television

program; and

adding the second television program and the second time to another custom channel.

18.　　(Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a receiver to receive television programming from at least one provider;

a customer interface providing access to the television programming to enable a customer

of a broker to create a custom channel including at least one television program

selected from the television programming; and

a transmitter coupled to the receiver, the transmitter to transmit <u>from the broker to the</u>

<u>customer</u> the custom channel<u> created by the customer, the custom channel</u>

<u>including the at least one television program</u>~~from the broker to the customer~~.

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19.   (Original) The system of claim 18, further comprising a database memory to store custom channel data identifying television programs comprising the custom channel.

20.   (Original) The system of claim 18, the customer interface including one of an electronic program guide, a natural language electronic program guide, and a web-based electronic program guide.

21.   (Original) The system of claim 18, further comprising a video storage medium coupled to the receiver, the video storage medium to receive and store television programming.

22.   (Original) The system of claim 18, further comprising an encryption device coupled to the transmitter, the encryption device to encrypt a signal comprising the custom channel prior to transmission to the customer.

23.   (Original) The system of claim 18, further comprising access circuitry coupled to the customer interface, the access circuitry to receive and verify a customer access code.

24.   (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
a customer interface providing access to a listing of television programming available
        from a provider to enable a customer of a broker to create a custom channel
        including at least one program selected from the television programming; and
a controller to generate custom channel data for the custom channel created by the
        customer, the custom channel data identifying the at least one selected television
        program, and to send the custom channel data from the broker to the provider.

25.   (Original) The system of claim 24, further comprising a database memory to store the custom channel data.

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26.   (Original) The system of claim 24, the customer interface including one of an electronic program guide, a natural language electronic program guide, and a web-based electronic program guide.

27.   (Original) The system of claim 24, further comprising access circuitry coupled to the customer interface, the access circuitry to receive and verify a customer access code.

28.   (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:
a machine accessible medium, said machine accessible medium providing instructions
      that, when executed by a machine, cause said machine to:
      provide access to television programming to enable a customer of a broker to
create a custom channel including at least one television program selected from the
television programming; and

      transmit <u>from the broker to the customer</u> the custom channel <u>created by the
            customer and including the at least one television program selected from
            the television programming</u> from the broker to the customer.

29.   The article of claim 28, said instructions, when executed, further causing said machine to simultaneously transmit to the customer the custom channel and at least one other custom channel, the at least one other custom channel including at least one television program selected from the television programming

30.   The article of claim 28, said instructions, when executed, further causing said machine to:
pre-record a television program; and
      transmit to the customer a custom channel including the pre-recorded television
      program.

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